

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims, as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A shoe cover comprising:

an upper portion having at least one of a toe portion for receiving the toe of a shoe, a heel portion for receiving the heel of a shoe and an intermediate portion for receiving an intermediate part of a shoe; and

a sole portion connected to the upper portion, the sole portion being flexible if necessary to allow walking when a shoe is held in the shoe cover;

the upper portion including at least one, self-supporting and resilient shoe admission portion connected to the sole portion, the shoe admission portion having an inwardly inclined lead-in surface extending toward the sole portion, and an overhang surface extending from the lead-in surface toward the sole portion, the overhang surface being adapted to form an undercut area so that a shoe to be held to the shoe cover first engages and slides along the inclined lead-in surface to resiliently expand the admission portion outwardly without being crushed, and then slides into engagement with the overhang surface to enter or form the undercut area as the shoe touches the sole portion while the shoe admission portion contracts resiliently inwardly to hold the shoe, the lead-in surface having a lower coefficient of friction than the overhang surface to facilitate sliding of the shoe into the undercut area.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 1, wherein the overhang surface is adapted to extend outwardly of the lead-in surface to form the undercut area, with and

without a shoe engaged into the undercut area.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A shoe cover according to claim 1, wherein comprising:

an upper portion having at least one of a toe portion for receiving the toe of a shoe, a heel portion for receiving the heel of a shoe and an intermediate portion for receiving an intermediate part of a shoe; and

a sole portion connected to the upper portion, the sole portion being flexible to allow walking when a shoe is held in the shoe cover;

the upper portion including at least one, self-supporting and resilient shoe admission portion connected to the sole portion, the shoe admission portion having an inwardly inclined lead-in surface extending toward the sole portion, and an overhang surface extending from the lead-in surface toward the sole portion, the overhang surface being adapted to form an undercut area so that a shoe to be held to the shoe cover first engages and slides along the inclined lead-in surface to resiliently expand the admission portion outwardly without being crushed, and then slides into engagement with the overhang surface to enter or form the undercut area as the shoe touches the sole portion while the shoe admission portion contracts resiliently inwardly to hold the shoe, and wherein the overhang surface is adapted to extend outwardly of the lead-in surface to form the undercut area only when a shoe engaged into the undercut area, the admission portion being compressible in the undercut area to compress in the presence of the shoe to form the undercut area.

Claim 5 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 1, wherein the toe and heel portions each include at least one said admission portion.

Claim 6 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 1, wherein the toe portion includes at least one said admission portion.

Claim 7 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 1, wherein the heel portion includes at least one said admission portion.

Claim 8 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate portion includes at least one said admission portion.

Claim 9 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 1, including at least two said admission portions with at least one being connected directly to the sole portion, the upper portion having a slot between said at least two admission portions so that said admission portions form resilient fingers for holding a shoe to the shoe cover.

Claim 10 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 1, wherein the lead-in and overhang surfaces are smooth curved surfaces that extend contiguously one next to the other.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A shoe cover ~~according to claim 1, wherein comprising:~~

an upper portion having at least one of a toe portion for receiving the toe of a shoe,

a heel portion for receiving the heel of a shoe and an intermediate portion for receiving an intermediate part of a shoe; and

a sole portion connected to the upper portion, the sole portion being flexible to allow walking when a shoe is held in the shoe cover;

the upper portion including at least one, self-supporting and resilient shoe admission portion connected to the sole portion, the shoe admission portion having an inwardly inclined lead-in surface extending toward the sole portion, and an overhang surface extending from the lead-in surface toward the sole portion, the overhang surface being adapted to form an undercut area so that a shoe to be held to the shoe cover first engages and slides along the inclined lead-in surface to resiliently expand the admission portion outwardly without being crushed, and then slides into engagement with the overhang surface to enter or form the undercut area as the shoe touches the sole portion while the shoe admission portion contracts resiliently inwardly to hold the shoe, and wherein the overhang surface is corrugated.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A shoe cover according to claim [[1]] 11, wherein the overhang surface is corrugated with a plurality of angular teeth.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A shoe cover according to claim [[1]] 11, wherein the overhang surface is corrugated with a plurality of rounded teeth.

Claim 14 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 1, wherein the admission portion is a curved sheet of self-supporting resilient material connected to the sole portion.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A shoe cover according to claim 1, wherein comprising:

an upper portion having at least one of a toe portion for receiving the toe of a shoe, a heel portion for receiving the heel of a shoe and an intermediate portion for receiving an intermediate part of a shoe; and

a sole portion connected to the upper portion, the sole portion being flexible to allow walking when a shoe is held in the shoe cover;

the upper portion including at least one, self-supporting and resilient shoe admission portion connected to the sole portion, the shoe admission portion having an inwardly inclined lead-in surface extending toward the sole portion, and an overhang surface extending from the lead-in surface toward the sole portion, the overhang surface being adapted to form an undercut area so that a shoe to be held to the shoe cover first engages and slides along the inclined lead-in surface to resiliently expand the admission portion outwardly without being crushed, and then slides into engagement with the overhang surface to enter or form the undercut area as the shoe touches the sole portion while the shoe admission portion contracts resiliently inwardly to hold the shoe, and wherein the admission portion comprises a tubular member and means for connecting the tubular member over the sole portion.

Claim 16 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 1, including length adjusting means connected to, or being within, the sole portion for adjusting the length of the shoe cover.

Claim 17 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 16, wherein the length adjusting means includes a flexible toe plate extending toward the front of the sole portion, a heel plate slidable engaged to the toe plate and extending toward the rear of the sole heel portion, biasing means between the toe and heel plates for biasing the toe and heel plated apart, a lock for locking the relative position between the toe and heel plates for setting a length of the shoe cover and an actuator for releasing the lock.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A shoe cover comprising:

an upper portion for receiving at least one of a toe, a heel and an intermediate part of a shoe;

a sole portion connected to the upper portion, the sole portion being flexible if necessary to allow walking when a shoe is held to the shoe cover; [[and]]

length adjusting means connected to the sole portion for adjusting the length of the shoe cover, the length adjusting means including biasing means for adjusting the length of the sole portion, lock means for holding the sole portion at a plurality of lengths, and release means for releasing the lock means to allow the sole portion to adjust in length under the bias of the biasing means; and

the length adjusting means including a flexible toe plate extending toward the front of the sole portion, a heel plate slidable engaged to the toe plate and extending toward the rear of the sole heel portion, biasing means between the toe and heel plates for biasing the toe and heel plated apart, a lock for locking the relative position between the toe and heel plates for setting a length of the shoe cover and an actuator for releasing the lock.

Claim 19 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 18, wherein the upper portion included at least one, self-supporting and resilient shoe admission portion connected to the sole portion, the shoe admission portion having an inwardly inclined lead-in surface extending toward the sole portion, and an overhang surface extending from the lead-in surface toward the sole portion, the overhang surface being adapted to form an undercut area so that a shoe to be held to the shoe cover first engages and slides along the inclined lead-in surface to resiliently expand the admission portion outwardly without being crushed, and then slides into engagement with the overhang surface to enter or form the undercut area as the shoe touches the sole portion while the shoe admission portion contracts resiliently inwardly to hold the shoe.

Claim 20 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 19, wherein the lead-in surface has a lower coefficient of friction than the overhang surface to facilitate sliding of the shoe into the undercut area.

Claim 21 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 19, wherein the overhang surface is adapted to extend outwardly of the lead-in surface to form the undercut area, with and without a shoe engaged into the undercut area.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A shoe cover according to claim 19, wherein the overhang surface is adapted to extend outwardly of the lead-in surface to form the undercut area only [[when]] with a shoe engaged into the undercut area, the admission portion being compressible in the undercut area to compress in the presence of the shoe to form the undercut area.

Claim 23 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 19, including at least two said admission portions.

Claim 24 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 19, including at least two said admission portions with at least one being connected directly to the sole portion, the upper portion having a slot between said at least two admission portions so that said admission portions form resilient fingers for holding a shoe to the shoe cover.

Claim 25 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 19, wherein the lead-in and overhang surfaces are smooth curved surfaces that extend contiguously one next to the other.

Claim 26 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 19, wherein the overhang surface is corrugated.

Claim 27 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 19, wherein the overhang surface is corrugated with a plurality of angular teeth.

Claim 28 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 19, wherein the overhang surface is corrugated with a plurality of rounded teeth.

Claim 29 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 19, wherein the admission portion is a curved sheet of self-supporting resilient material connected to the sole portion.

Claim 30 (original): A shoe cover according to claim 19, wherein the admission portion comprises a tubular member and means for connecting the tubular member over the sole portion.